

Shelton Singers brought operatic intensity to end-of-term show

On Thursday, April 30 in the Bean-Brown Theatre, the Shelton Singers did what they do best: sing a wide variety of songs in a wide variety of styles.

Director Glinda Blackshear, who has won awards for her innovative Bach to Rock touring performance and education program, seems to delight in putting her students through the paces of many singing styles—let alone languages.

"The idea of the show-

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The next governor?



United States House of Representative member Artur Davis gave the commencement speech at Shelton State's spring '09 graduation ceremonies. He has announced as a candidate for Alabama governor. Though running for office, Davis's visit to the college did not seem to have the feel of a campaign stop.

When you show up for graduation and the commencement speaker is not only some one you've heard of but also someone currently in the news, then it is a safe bet an election season has begun.

Such may have been the case on May 11 when popular Alabama congressman Artur

Davis, a declared candidate for the Alabama governorship, spoke to the Shelton State graduates.

To be fair, Davis did not sound like a person running for office. His address was no campaign speech—and he didn't even shake hands with all the grads as they walked across

the stage.

But that was explained as a concession to the Swine Flu scare raging at the time.

Rather, Davis seemed determined to touch the graduates in an intellectual way as

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Literacy campaign kicks off with Bama sports theme

Crimson Literacy: Up Close and Personal will be hosted on June 26 by the Literacy Council of West Alabama and will feature seven authors, all with ties to UA Athletics.

**LITERACY
COUNCIL**
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Chip Cooper—*Crimson*; Ken Gaddy—*Twelve and Counting*; The National Championships of Alabama Football; Cecil Hurt—*Traditions*; Tommy Ford—*Alabama Football All Access Vault* (August 2009); Richard Scott—*Legends of Alabama Football*; Kirk McNair—*What It Means to be Crimson Tide*; Christopher Walsh—*100 Things Crimson Tide Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die*; *Crimson Storm Surge*; *Who's #1? 100 Plus Years of Controversial National Champions in College Football*.

A free Book Signing will

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Theatre Tuscaloosa gears up for a landmark, special *The Sound of Music*

After three days of auditions attended by more than 100 Maria, Captain Von Trapp, Gretl, Rolff, and Mother Abbess hopefuls, Theatre Tuscaloosa announced its cast for this summer's *The Sound of Music*.

The production can be seen June 19-21 and 24-28, 2009 at the Bean-Brown

Theatre on Shelton State Community College's Martin Campus. Tickets are \$22-adult, \$17-senior, and \$10-student can be purchased at theatretusc.com or by calling 205.391.2277.

The Sound of Music is Theatre Tuscaloosa's final production of the 08-09 season celebrating Ten years of Our Favorite Things in the



Counselor
Lisa
Waldrop
will play
Maria in
The
Sound of
Music.

Bean Brown Theatre. Executive Director Tina Fitch, musical director Leslie Poss, and choreographer Ray Taylor are finishing rehearsals for the summer musical that includes a cast of Theatre Tuscaloosa veterans: Lisa Waldrop—Maria; Ava Buchanan—Elsa

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- Our review of the increasingly famous Crawfish Boil will make you mark your 2010 calendar alreadypg. 6
- Our commentator wonders if only twits twitter.....pg. 7



Showcase cont'd from page 1

case originated last fall when I realized what diverse talents existed among the Shelton Singers," Blackshear explained.

"All of the Singers participated in the challenging choral repertoire which we performed, and then students volunteered for the opera scenes and musical theatre numbers, which they learned outside of regular choir rehearsals."

Blackshear, who can usually be seen singing along with her students in performance as well as directing, said, "I'm very proud of them all!"

Because of the sheer volume of work and preparation, the music students expanded their roles beyond just singing for the showcase.

Justin Barnett, a first-year bass, worked on a scene from the macabre musical *Sweeney Todd*. "It was great to cast and direct a scene myself," he said.

Justin Sullivan, a first-year tenor said, "I was very proud of the performance and glad to be a part of such a great thing."

Cameron Chandler, a second-year tenor, couldn't decide if the experience was more edifying or pleasurable. "I was very proud of our performance, and I had so much fun!" he said.

TiMori Robinson, a first-



year alto, passed a strict test just by performing in front of her loved ones. "My family and friends loved it! My aunt who has her doc-

torate in music can't wait to

challenge of modern musical numbers, the Shelton Singers Showcase was forced to offer two intermissions so the audience could catch its collective breath, let alone the singers'.

Ashley Hallman, first-year soprano, loved the pacing of the whole thing, appreciating the way it got lighter and more fun as it went on. "The Broadway numbers were a great way to close the show!"

(From L-R, top to bottom) Violinist Hilarie Rivas and cellist Anne Witt joined the Singers on "O My Love's Like a Red, Red Rose"; Lee Johnson portrayed the title character in *The Marriage of Figaro*; soprano Briana Burrell was soloist on a spiritual dedicated to Katrina victims; during a medley, the Singers perform "Tradition"; Charmin Richardson, Miss Indian Alabama, sang "Colors of the Wind" to Aaron Bamberg; Melissa Talley sang the "trousers role" in *Figaro*; Ernest Cannon sang "This is the Moment"; Kevin Beck sang "Some Enchanted Evening"; Jared Sanders sang the count's aria from *Figaro*; Charmin Richardson performed as Tobey in scenes from *Sweeney Todd*.

come to another concert!"

Lee Johnson, second-year baritone who presented some of the more musically complicated opera in the performance, said, "My family and friends said the music sounded challenging, but they truly enjoyed hearing it."

Beginning with the formality of the full choir, passing through a string accompaniment, moving on to scenes from classic opera and into the fun and lively

The *Shelton State Courier* is brought to its readers by the academic and extracurricular programs of Shelton State Community College.

Shelton State Courier

Staff Writers
Members of
MCM-102 Class

Publisher
Dr. Jim Kenny

The *Shelton State Courier* is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among its functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working

with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The *Courier* is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

The college honored many of its best students in late-April ceremony

Hundreds of family, friends, faculty, and staff were on hand to see more than 100 SSCC students receive honors at the semester's end.

During the ceremony, each honored student was presented with a medallion featuring the Shelton State seal. Multiple award winners also received certificates subsequent to receipt of the medallion. Awards were presented in the following areas: Scholarships, Excellence in Academics and Leadership, Division Awards, and College-Wide Awards.

2009 All-Alabama Academic Team: Missie DeLoach and Vincent Darrell Jennings.

The All-Alabama Academic Team is sponsored by the Alabama College System, Phi Theta Kappa, the American Association of Community Colleges and *USA Today*. The program recognizes scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in community, technical, and junior colleges.

Along with these honors, this year Phi Theta Kappa announced the establishment of the Coca-Cola All-State Community College Academic Team, which included 50 awards each in the categories of gold, silver and bronze scholars. In the inaugural year of this award, Vincent Jennings also received a bronze medallion and certificate as a Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar.

Division and Departmental Awards

Dale C. Acker, Outstanding Astronomy Student; Victoria Ashley, Outstanding Sophomore English Student; Donna Branyon, Outstanding United States History Student; Lindsey N. Bright, Outstanding Microbiology Student; Paula Butler, Outstanding Sophomore in Culinary Arts; Jeanette Caddell, Most Outstanding NAS Student; Julie Campbell, Outstanding Cosmetology Student; Joseph Clevenger, Outstanding Anatomy and Physiology I Student

Also named were Daniel Cole, Outstanding Diesel

Mechanics Student; Chelsea Collins, Outstanding Generic Nursing Student, Shelton State Association of Nursing Students Fellowship Award; Sarah Cooley, Outstanding Wellness Instructor Student; Jimmie Deason, Outstanding Senior Welding Student

Also recognized were Eden Donaldson, *Courier* Writer of the Year; Gregory Wayne Dickey, Outstanding Beginning Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Student; Forouzan Forouzanfar, Outstanding Cosmetology Student; Patrick Freeman, Health and Wellness Achievement Award; William Todd Freeman, Respiratory Therapy Program Class of 2008 Most Outstanding Student; Caleb Gambino, Outstanding Jazz Instrumentalist; Kaitlyn Graves, Outstanding First-Year Musician; Jordon Hannah, Outstanding Advanced Jazz Ensemble Student

Also named were Andrea Harless, Outstanding Legal Secretary Student; Blake Hartley, Outstanding Freshman in Culinary Arts; Sara C. Hilton, Outstanding Psychology Student; Stacie Denise Holland, Outstanding First-Year Choral Student; Deondra Horton, Outstanding Wellness Student; Equillia Hoskins, Outstanding Medical Transcription Student; Joe Hosmer, Most Outstanding Computer Numerical Control Student

Also recognized were Jodi Jeter, Nightingale Award and Shelton State Association of Nursing Student Leadership Award; Michael Brandon Johnson, Outstanding Night Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Student; Nathaniel Jones, Outstanding Mobility Student; Eunyee Jung, Outstanding Anatomy and Physiology II Student; Jewitt Kelly, Outstanding Commercial Art Student; Karen Killion, Outstanding First Year Voice Student; Chris Koerner, Speech Team; Christinna Lay, Most Outstanding NAS Student; Johnston Moore, Outstanding General Biology Student.

Also named were

Francisco E. Morales, Outstanding Calculus Student; Erica Mossholder, Outstanding Anatomy and Physiology I Student; John Murray, Most Outstanding Auto Body Repair Student; Alysia Renee Nailor, Outstanding Advanced Choral Student; James L. Nettles, Outstanding Second-Year Industrial Electronics Technology Student; Josh Oswalt, Outstanding Advanced Electrical Technology Student

Also recognized were Kenneth Lee Patterson, Outstanding Western Civilization Student; Chase Richards, Outstanding First-Year Industrial Electronics Technology Student; Lee Richardson, Outstanding Pianist Award; Josh Roberts, Outstanding First-Year Jazz Ensemble Student; Antonio Ryans, Outstanding Student in Commercial Food Service; Mellisa Saltzman, Outstanding Information Processing Student; Jared Sanders, Outstanding Advanced Voice Student

Also named were Meredith Sayers, Outstanding General Biology Student and Mass Communication Student of the Year; Darnell Steele, Outstanding Freshman in Culinary Arts; Diane Stewart, Outstanding Bookkeeping Accountant Student; Steven Strickland, Outstanding Senior Electrical Technology Student; Chris Stromberg, Outstanding Automotive Technology Student; Daniel Summerlin, Most Outstanding Auto Body Repair Student

Also recognized were Melissa Talley, Outstanding Advanced Musician; Emily P. Thomas, Most Outstanding Student in the Respiratory Therapy Program; Todd W. Tragemann, Outstanding Anatomy and Physiology I Student; Kristi Tubbs, Outstanding Mobility Student; Jonathan Wade, Outstanding Freshman English Student; Rendell Washington, Outstanding Freshman Welding Student

Also named were Terry West, Outstanding Pre-Calculus Student; Leigh D. Wiggins, Outstanding

Carpentry Student; Taylor Payne Williams, Outstanding Advanced Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Student; Henry Wayne Wilson, Outstanding Freshman Electrical Technology Student; Kevin Yessick, Outstanding Heavy Equipment Student; Maria Zdunowski, Outstanding Medical Records Student

College Awards

Ryan Smelley, Harold I. James Outstanding Technical Student Award

The Outstanding Technical Student Award is named for Harold I. James, president of Shelton State Technical College from 1951-1976. The recipient is selected based on accomplishments in the classroom and workplace.

Remona Wilson Winston, Norman C. Cephus Special Achievement Award

The Special Achievement Award is named after Norman C. Cephus, president of Fredd State Technical College from 1982-1990. The recipient of the Norman C. Cephus Special Achievement Award is selected based on academic achievement, involvement in campus and community activities, technical recognition and job-related activities.

Holly Willis, James Browning Allen Outstanding Student Award

The award is given in loving memory of United States Senator James B. Allen and Jack L. Ray, Chairman of the Board and CEO, The Exchange Bank of Alabama, by their families. They established this Award in 1966 to recognize the greatness of Alabama's young people.

Brittany Lee, Thomas E. Umphrey Outstanding Freshman Award

The Outstanding Freshman Award is named for Dr. Thomas E. Umphrey, president of Shelton State Community College from 1988-2000. The recipient of the Thomas E. Umphrey Outstanding Freshman Award is selected based on outstanding academic achievement and involvement in campus activities.

Mallory Brooke Banks,

Leo Sumner Outstanding Sophomore Student Award

The Outstanding Sophomore Student Award is named for Dr. Leo Sumner, president of Shelton State Community College from 1976-1988. The recipient is selected based on outstanding academic performance, school involvement, and community service. It is the highest honor a student can earn at Shelton State Community College.

President's List

The President's List designation is accorded to any student who earns a 4.0 G.P.A. while enrolled full-time. These students have been named to the President's List at least twice: Joseph M. Almony, Jr., Victoria A. Ashley, Christina Poe Baisden, Mallory B. Banks, Jacob Blair, Adam P. Brown, Michelle Lee Bruner, Garin M. Buckhanna, Kati M. Chastine, Christopher Blake Clark, Jeffrey Duane Drawyer, Allen Brent Gaines, Jessica Jo Gilliam, Heather Leigh Grant, Randall Lee Griffin, David Hemphill III, Kenneth O'Neal Herbert, Jeremy Ray Hicks, Joseph D. Hosmer, Corey Steven Jackson, Andrew Debrickson Jones, Dustin Scott Jones, Kenneth R. Koon, Leah Nicole Lucas, James Issac Martin, Blake Olen Miles, Robert Scott Miller, Andrew Blake Milligan, Walton Scott Moore, Francisco Elias Morales, James Lenell Nettles, Chase Matthew Richards, Steve Hugh Roberts, Jackie Denise Smith, Edward Tillman Sterling, Steven Roy Strickland, Matthew Ryan Summerford, Trung Thien Trieu, Anna E. Turner, Kortney Ann Walters, Terry D. West, James Seth Wicker, Matthew Aaron Wolfenbarger.

Scholar-Athletes

Each of the honorees has the highest grade point average in his or her sport: Mary Postell, softball; Marissa Carter, women's basketball; William Whitaker, baseball; Amy Snow, soccer.

Sound of Music

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Schraeder; Glinda Blackshear—Mother Abbess and returning actors: Jeff Binford—Max Detweiler; Kate Gates—Sister Margareta; and Glen Johnson—Herr Zeller. Newcomers to Theatre Tuscaloosa's stage are: Doff Procter—Captain von Trapp; Mollye Gunnells—Sister Sophia; and Amy Todhunter—Sister Berthe.

Playing the roles of the von Trapp children are: Kathryn David—Liesl; Clifton Baker—Freidrich; Anna Kate Campbell—Louisa; Cole Cabiness—Kurt; Emily McGuire—Brigitta; Sarah Mason Avery—Marta; and Destiny Schatzline—Gretl.

Other actors/dancers are: Sara Margaret Cates, Courtney Dover, Jameson Sanford, Alan Blackshear, Beth Patrick, Crystal Kohl, Marianne David, Jennifer Bryant, Leslie Procter, Jeanette Fontaine, Karen Killion, Matthew Davis, John Paul Snead, Justin Barnette, Jacob Hougaboom, and Alex

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Perkins.

Design and technical direction is provided by: Jeanette Waterman—costume design; Andy Fitch—set design; Zac Lawson—light design; and Jerrell Bowden—sound design.

The "hills of Tuscaloosa are indeed alive with the sound of music," the theatre troupe asserted in its press releases. And for anyone who has ever attended a play in the Bean-Brown, there is little doubt the charms of pre-WWII Salzburg will be con-

veyed beautifully.

The staged production can be seen June 19-21 and 24-28, 2009 at the Bean-Brown Theatre on Shelton State Community College's Martin Campus, 9500 Greensboro Road. Tickets, \$22-adult, \$17-senior, and \$10-student can be purchased at theatretusc.com or by calling 205.391.2277.

For tickets or more information, call 205.391.2277 or visit Theatre Tuscaloosa online at theatretusc.com.



Some of the mainstays of Theatre Tuscaloosa's production of The Sound of Music performed a bit of a preview for visiting Shelton retirees. Singing for their lunch were Leslie Poss, musical director; Tina Fitch, director of Theatre Tuscaloosa and the show's director; music instructor Glinda Blackshear, who plays mother-abbess; and college counselor Lisa Waldrop who must carry the show as Maria.

Graduation

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he urged them to savor the moment of triumph at hand "and use it when things are down."

Davis said he knew there were many people in the crowd who had persevered in the face of setbacks and obstacles—and he said he admired them for it and urged them to continue to strive in the face of anything life throws at them.

Davis related a story that his mother often told about being rejected in the purchase of a particular car for lack of credit, only to hear that the person who ended up buying it was killed pulling away from the dealership.

"You never know when a bad break is going to turn into the event that changes your life, or saves it," he said.

Davis spent a couple of hours at Shelton State before going back on the road, crisscrossing Alabama and introducing himself to the state at

large.

His appearance at the college had an ironic twist, perhaps, since it was here just a few weeks ago that Alabama Community College System Chancellor Bradley Byrne spoke commemorating the 30th anniversary of the chartering of Shelton as a community college.

Byrne has since resigned his chancellor position and declared himself a candidate for the governorship in the Republican party.

Artur Davis is running as a Democrat.

Would it be presumptuous, antagonistic or just plain risky to consider bringing them back in the future for a campus debate?

Of course, each would have to win his primary and make it to the general election of 2010.

Who knows what obstacles and setbacks each will endure in the coming months. But whoever endures and comes out on top—one, both or neither—Shelton State people can say they've had a

good, close look at one of the top candidates in each party.

Of course, politics was the farthest thing from the minds of the approximately 140 graduates who donned the robes and mortarboards to receive their certificates, their associates in applied sciences, associates in science and associates in arts degrees.

And one challenge of the

hour was met: the rains held off until the day was done.



Graduation scenes at Shelton include (clockwise from top L) state schoolboard member Gary Warren, President Mark Heinrich and U.S. Rep. Artur Davis preparing to take the commencement stage; this year's sergeant-at-arms Darrell Wright wielding the ceremonial mace before entering the Umphrey Center; Victoria Corley just about to be handed her degree; and Justin Grimes showing off his full regalia, including his Shelton honors medal and PTK medal and sash.

Shel-Shots



There was plenty of competition for the winner of the Leo Sumner Award—the college's highest academic honor—but there wasn't much surprise when Ambassador, PTK officer, and 4.0 scholar Mallory Banks was named.



It doesn't take long for the loved ones of graduates to find plenty of sunshine for photography just after the graduation ceremonies. Many get their shots in just outside the door of the Umphrey Center.



A new wrinkle for students during graduation was passing-through a corridor of their instructors on the way to their seats.



Associate Dean Linda Grote has the honor and challenge of pronouncing every name of every graduate during commencement.



President Mark Heinrich spoke with the Shelton State retirees who came back for a luncheon on campus and expressed interest in volunteering.

Meredith Sayers (L) was named mass communication student of the year and Eden Donaldson was the Courier writer of the year. Before coming to Shelton, they attended Brookwood High together.



Fair Warning: Don't miss the Crawfish Boil next year...

By Chelsea Figueroa

The Schaeffer Eye Center Crawfish Boil has done it again.

The Crawfish Boil is a Birmingham tradition that started 23 years ago.

It began as a small event, but over the years has turned out to be a huge success.

This music festival started out as a back-yard party and has turned into an every year two-day event that presents enjoyable music entertainment and about 25,000 pounds of crawfish. And if crawfish is not your thing, this festival has every kind of food vendor in town, from BBQ to greek skewers, to even carnival foods such as funnel cake.

The Crawfish Boil, was held outside the BJCC, in Birmingham. The first weekend in May has never disappointed its fans. With the variety of music and the tons and tons of Louisiana crawfish going around.

In past years The Crawfish Boil has had bands such as Blues Traveler, Sister Hazel, Better Than Ezra, The Wall Flowers and Hootie & the Blowfish. As the years continue the

line up only gets better.

This year's Crawfish Boil entertained its audience with free rides from a Ferris wheel, and cartoon and movies screened on a digital video wall.

The music entertainment ranged from alternative rock to pop and even hip hop. The first day of the festival was Friday, May 1, gates opened at 4 p.m. and the music lineup was Saving Abel, ShineDown, LL Cool J, Jason Mraz, and ended with a great performance with the famous 311.

On the second day, Saturday May 2, gates opened at 1 p.m. and throughout the day had performances by Bushwalla, Shiny Toy Guns, Filter, Everclear, Katy Perry, All American Rejects, and last

but not least the infamous Snoop Dogg.

It's not required to go both days; some people pick and chose which artist they want to see. A Shelton State student, Jenny Leader,



said, "I am crazy about the lead singer Tyson from The All American Rejects, and his performance was amazing. It has been a tradition every year, my best friends and I have been going to Crawfish since my freshman year in high school, I have not missed one yet, and I don't plan on it."

"It's a great event to spend time with your friends, listening to good music and eating tons of crawfish."

The Crawfish Boil is a rain-or-shine event; it's an overall great way to start off your summer. Spend time with some of your great friends and listen to music and fill up on crawfish. If you failed to attend this year, it's okay: you've got a whole year to purchase your ticket and experience it for yourself.

So give it a chance, check it out, it may become an every-year activity for you and your friends as well.



Chelsea Figueroa and Jenny Leader stand in front of the ticket booth to their favorite annual event.

College experiencing summer enrollment boost

Summer enrollment numbers are up at Shelton State Community College, with 12 percent more students registered for 19 percent more credit hours than in summer of 2008.

As of June 1, 143 classes were closed due to reaching maximum enrollment with 360 classes remaining open. Courses in which the biggest increases occurred were in psychology, mathematics, and history. Also popular is ELO 100, the College's new prerequisite course for anyone participating in eLearning, with 180 students. More than 3,600 students are currently enrolled in the summer term that began May 28.

The summer enrollment comes on the heels of the College's spring 2009 enrollment, which was also up nine percent over the same semes-

ter in 2008.

Smaller class size, more affordable tuition than four-year institutions in the state, and the current economy are a few of many reasons why Shelton State President Dr. Mark Heinrich feels that the College's numbers continue to rise.

"We certainly are encouraged to see the rising number of people who are taking advantage of what Shelton State has to offer," said Heinrich.

"It is obvious that the residents of West Alabama understand that this College is here to positively impact our community. That happens in large part because of the efforts of the dedicated faculty and staff who work to provide our students with excellence in instructional programs and support."

Thanks to everyone for help with the Shelton Cares: Spring into Action project that benefitted the West Alabama Food Bank. The Shelton State community collected 883 pounds of food.

This project served as the kick-off for Phi Theta Kappa's food drive also benefitting West Alabama Food Bank. As one of their service projects, Phi Theta

Kappa will continue to collect canned goods and other nonperishable food items throughout the year.

Red barrels will continue to be located throughout the Martin campus building for collection.

Please continue to help Phi Theta Kappa members in their efforts to provide for the basic needs of the community.

Shelton State's new hours are OFFICE hours, not class hours. These are for students to take care of any business they may have from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday – Thursday and from 8 a.m. until noon on Friday.

Basketball star talks frankly about hoops and school

Anybody who has ever seen Buccaneer guard LaJay Sears play basketball knows he has the ability to play the game at a very high level indeed. The biggest obstacle to high hoops achievement for Sears is, by gosh, he has never liked school and finds it a lot easier to make a 3-pointer than a 3-point...

By LaJay Sears

Basketball is the sport I play every day of my life and I really enjoy playing.

I just have this one thing I that I'm not good in and that's school. School is not one of my favorite things to attend every day. If I could play basketball without going to school that would be the life for me.

This LaJay Sears is determined to hit the books hard.

Still a man for me because I had to sit out a semester for my grades. This has made me learn a lot of things this past year about where I want to be in life and the things I want to accomplish.

When I'm on the basketball court everything is natural but when I'm at school everything is un-natural. I can score 30 points and do my best, then go to school

and fail a math test.

If English were a sport I would never leave the bench. If a science lab was like a three, it would be a cinch. But it's not!

When people say I'm a jock, I want them to think twice because I want to achieve my master's degree and be something in life. I don't want people to just use me for my ability.

I want them to see there is more to me than agility. I want people to see I want to achieve in school and life not just remembering my game last Friday night.

I've had tutors to help me with school work but school isn't the same as the basketball court.

Shelton State has been good for me since I've been attending this school. Now I will be attending a school just down the street from Shelton.

It's called Stillman College.

Maybe things won't change a lot, but I know I will try my best to do everything the right way the first time so I don't have any regrets.

The community won't change because it's in the same city. I know this city very well so nothing is going to be new for me because I have been in the city for two whole years.



Commentary: All A-Twitter in Tuscaloosa?

By Ashley M. Anthis

The nature of current awareness is changing. It is becoming increasingly easy for society to simply get on the Internet and perform almost any action.

The Internet is providing the ability to watch movies, read newspapers, chat with friends, and even shop. The latest fad among young and old alike is the development of blogging, which provides as a source of commentary and analysis. The "current" is becoming more like a tidal wave than ever before.

The most popular trend in the blogging community is the new development of Twitter. The rallying cry among society, especially those of the college age, is, "if your friends are in the Twitterverse, you need to be, too."

So while many college students are being followers of the new "online fad," others are publicly skeptical about the quality of the discourse possible in 140 characters, unconvinced that you can discover the content that you need to be aware of, and just generally curmudgeonly about this new toy.

It is certainly easy to see how some could appreciate aspects of Twitter—it's nimble, informal, and fun. A student at the University of Alabama, who wishes to remain anonymous, thinks that Twitter is actually useful to some degree. This student says, "Twitter is good for such things as weather updates. It allows people to send a message directly to James Spann, the Tuscaloosa meteorologist,

about weather conditions in certain areas." But, with that aspect aside, for those of us who are predictably at the office or in a classroom most of the time, why bother with such things as frivolous as Twitter?

Will Ponder, sophomore at Shelton, complains, "Twitter is like a Facebook, where all you can do is update your status." Another Shelton student, Cody Dearman, says, "I'm not a fan of it. I don't really see the point in it." Twitter is basically the same thing as updating your Facebook status all day, but with more inane and trivial statements, Dearman goes on to say.

Twitter is designed as a platform for the easy exchange of current ideas in a shorter format than traditional blogs. Its users should think of themselves as "micro-bloggers"; unfortunately, most do not. Very few people use the site effectively, choosing instead to post updates about how great their sandwich tastes on a given afternoon. Sandwich connoisseurs aside, no one cares. This vocal majority of self-obsessed users fill Twitter with the kind of flotsam that Ponder, Dearman, and many others have, quite understandably, become so disgusted with.

Very few people care about how you are feeling, but if by some miracle you are able to garner enough followers on Twitter, your opinions become a publicly recorded commodity. Having the ability to converse with people who are legitimately interested in your thoughts is a good idea,

but why does society insist on avoiding personal interaction and turn to the computer to share ideas or thoughts?

If there is one thing that our media culture has already been lacking, it's context and content. Then add something like Twitter and the hysteria of a technology-crazy society can reach a fever pitch, with commentators, conventional and unconventional alike, tweeting feverishly away, hoping their info-bleeps capture a moment's attention. The last thing we need is more interruptions in our already discontinuous and partially attentive connected world.

Status updates, or tweets as they are called on Twitter, are automatically sent via text message to the phones of Twitter users. In essence, this kind of networking can be perceived as hyper social behavior that shows a slightly pathological inability to be alone or feel safe about the stability of your contacts without having it reconfirmed every couple of hours.

Does the fate of the universe depend on the general public knowing that the shade of your new lipstick "totally" compliments the color of your eyes? Probably not. Maybe you should wait until you have something really interesting to say before you immerse yourself into the world of Twitter. In the meantime, if you want to share random thoughts with total strangers just open up your front door. Step away from the computer and step outside. The world is filled with plenty of strangers you can share your random thoughts with.

Literacy cont'd from Page 1

take place at Barnes & Noble from 5-6:30pm (books will be available for sale, with a percentage of proceeds benefiting the Literacy Council) and an Authors Reception will follow at I.O. Metro from 6:30-8pm.

The latter is a ticketed event to include one-on-one time with authors, food, drinks, live music and silent

auction; cost is \$50/couple. Both venues are located in Midtown Village in Tuscaloosa.

Tickets are on sale now and are available at all Bank of Tuscaloosa locations and The West Alabama Chamber of Commerce in downtown Tuscaloosa.

Proceeds will help the Literacy Council of West Alabama with our region's literacy challenge. Call 758.7588 more information.

CRIMSON LITERACY
Up Close & Personal

I.O. METRO

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS

Baseball team had great and softball team very good year

Neither of the Shelton State ball teams quite got to where their imaginations were taking them as their seasons wound down. But in the real world they both ended up doing very well.

The baseball Bucs probably didn't even dream of a return to the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, Colo., when they began the season 2-6. But after a 13-1 beatdown of Faulkner State to win its third-in-a-row ACCC title, who could blame them for dreaming of improvement over the second-place national finish of a year ago.

However, it was not to be. The Bucs lost their opener out west and settled for a 1-2 run and took it to the house.

Many athletes played well

this year, but several were singled out for conference honors, including freshmen pitchers Josh Wirnsberger and Terry McNutt who were named to the All-Region 22 first team by a vote of the ACCC baseball coaches. Sophomores Brett Whitaker and Justin Dilberto and freshman Michael Carden made second team. The Bucs finished 44-19.

Softball

Batting an outrageous-sounding .459, it could not have been much of a surprise that sophomore Lindsey Skinner made the All-Region 22 first team; that gaudy stat was accompanied by 17 steals.

She was joined by Kayla Gordy who was ranked fourth

in the state in home runs with seven and fifth in RBI's with 39.

Freshmen Sara Hilton and Stephanie Owenby were chosen second team. Owenby nearly batted the magic number herself, finishing with .393.

Sophomore pitcher Nicole Morrison and sophomore outfielder Alex Whisner made the ACC All-Central Division first team also. Second-team selections in this division were sophomore pitcher Mary Ellen Postell, Meghan Harris and Madison Fuller.

Shelton qualified for for the Alabama Community College Conference tournament this year—and ended the season with a 30-12 mark.

The Board of Directors of the Shelton State Community College Foundation, Inc., is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Dr. and Mrs. John N. Todd III Awards.

The recipient of the Outstanding Performance as a Support Staff Member: Keith Crowley

The recipient of the Outstanding Teaching in Technical Services: Larry McAfee

The recipient of the Outstanding Performance as an Administrative Staff Member: Dr. Bruce Bizzoco

The recipient of the Exceptional Achievement in Teaching: Darrell Wright

Vector Marketing/Cutco: a dream job for students? Well, it depends...

By: Carlos Martin

Vector marketing began as an independent distributor of Cutco Culinary in 1981. Exceptional training and leadership set sales high and outpaced other distributors around the country.

Vector Marketing eclipsed the smaller sales organization within just a few years. In 1985 it was named Cutco's sole distributor.

Vector marketing offers challenging and meaningful work opportunities in the field of sales, with no experience required.

Vector's Corporate vision is to become the largest, most-respected and widely recognized cutlery company in the world.

Vector marketing is still the distributor of Cutco products. Cutco products have been around nearly six decades. Made in Olean, N.Y., since 1949, Cutco sells its own products which are not sold in stores.

Vector North America is divided into three operational sectors: Canada, Vector West, and Vector East. Vector East is

divided into three regions itself such as: Western, Southwest, and Central.

Vector Marketing has over 200 offices in the United States and Canada. The Aug. 7, 2008, *Wall Street Journal* online reported that Cutco produced \$198 million in revenue.

Gary Brulez, an executive recruiter with Corporate Personnel & Associates in Kansas City, Mo., said, "Cutco experience gives college kids basic 'real-world' skills that they often don't learn until later on in life."

Asher Abraham, a former Cutco salesman, sold the knives throughout his four years at Queens College, in New York and earned more than \$100,000 one year, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Jack Gillette, 19, a Cutco salesman, has sold \$17,300 in knives and kitchenware since he started, according to *The Californian*.

Sarah Baker Andrus, the director of academics programs for Vector marketing says, "The company brings in 60 percent of its sales over the summer." The pay is a good

one at \$14 base per appointment with a flexible work schedule. Or is it?

This pay is not based on sales or commissions. So why work 40 hours a week with a pay of \$7 per-hour just to make \$280? You can make 20 appointments with Cutco and make the same amount; \$14 sounds good; some think it is too good to be true. Is there a catch to this salary?

"Working for Vector is a great opportunity for some college students to get some college credits," said Daine Solomon who was the representative that came to Shelton State Community College at the end of the spring semester.

But some people consider Cutco a scam.

Reported in a post on July 11, 2006 on scam.com Unlucky36 had this to say, "I was hired by them in the summer of 2002, you have to spend your own money on gas to get to your appointments and that there will also be mandatory meetings that you will be required to attend, you will also have to set up your own appointments and generate your own leads."

Unlucky36 also went on to say, "If your appointments don't meet the qualifications, you won't be paid and you just worked for free."

As reported in a Nov. 2008 post from scam.com impossibleobstacles says, "making an in-person appointment over the phone with a stranger is a sale in itself but here comes the scam buying the knives yourself to demo."

According to <http://www.spamlaws.com/vector-marketing-scam>. In the past the company has admitted to fraud in settlements with the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (1999), Wisconsin Consumer Dept. (1994), and Arizona Attorney General (1992).

In 1992, 940 Wisconsin Vector Marketing recruits were surveyed and the survey found out nearly half the recruits earned no pay or lost money while working for Vector. According to <http://www.419legal.org/frauds/vectormarketingscam.php>. The co-founder of SAVE (Students Against Vector Exploitation) recently won a

case with the NY Dept. of Labor alleging that Vector breached the independent contractor-client relationship making her an employee.

Vector was required to send her a check to compensate her work during unpaid training.

Vector Marketing can be a success for people as it was for Asher Abraham, and Jack Gillette or some can find it to be a scam, like Unlucky36 and impossibleobstacles from the reports of scam.com.

Vector Marketing can be the best thing that ever happen to you, or it could be the worst, but that's with every job in the world. Perhaps you can never get the full story of what Vector marketing really is unless you try it for yourself.

Vector Marketing has been a great match for tens of thousands of college students. Some may agree with Vector Marketing methods; some may not.

The ad for the job looks good and so does the pay. Will you be the next great Vector Marketing Story or will you be the next to post a claim for it being a scam?